

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00652 161724Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 0652

EXDIS

SECSTATE PASS DIA WASHDC FOR AH-4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, UR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 0600 (B) STATE 010395

1. EMBASSY HAD APPOINTMENT TO LODGE LOW-LEVEL PROTEST WITH MFA ON 1700 JANUARY 16. BEFORE WE COULD DO SO, HOWEVER, AT 1600 POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED IN BY KOMPLEKTOV, DEPUTY HEAD OF AMERICA SECTION MFA, WHO MADE ORAL PROTEST CONTAINED PARA 2.

2. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO DECLARE THE FOLLOWING TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ON JANUARY 15 OF THIS YEAR SOVIET CITIZENS NOTICED THE SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR OF TWO PERSONS WHO HAD ARRIVED IN A VOLGA AUTOMOBILE WITH LICENSE NUMBER D-04-356 IN THE AREA OF THE AIRPORT AT THE CITY OF ZHUKOVSKIY, SITUATED IN A ZONE OF THE MOSCOW OBLAST' CLOSED TO VISITS BY FOREIGNERS. THESE PERSONS WERE HIDING IN OLD QUARRIES AND SECRETIVELY PHOTOGRAPHING THE AIRPORT AND FLIGHTS OF AIRCRAFT LOCATED THERE.

AS A RESULT OF AC HECK CONDUCTED ON THE SPOT IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THESE WERE ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHES AT THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00652 161724Z

EMBASSY OF THE USA IN MOSCOW MAJOR R. KRAMER AND CAPTAIN F.

ANDERSEN. THE OBJECTS AND MATERIALS ON THEM OBVIOUSLY CONFIRM THAT THEY WERE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITY OF AN INTELLIGENCE NATURE. AT THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT A REPORT WAS DRAWN UP BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUTHORITIES WHICH, HOWEVER, KRAMER AND ANDERSEN REFUSED TO SIGN.

THUS, ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE MATTER INDICATE THAT A CRUDE VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF BEHAVIOR FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR TOOK PLACE ON THE PART OF THE NOTED ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHES OF THE USA.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROTESTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE USA THE NOTED ILLICIT ACTIVITY OF MAJOR R. KRAMER AND CAPTAIN F. ANDERSEN AND EXPECTS THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN BY THE EMBASSY TO EXCLUDE IN THE FUTURE SIMILAR BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF ITS PERSONNEL.

3. POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN REPLY REJECTED SOVIET ORAL STATEMENT, STATING THAT IT DISTORTED THE FACTS OF THE CASE AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM. HE THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH HE HANDED TO KOMPLEKTOV AFTERWARD IN THE FORM OF A NON-PAPER:

4. ON JANUARY 15, 1975, ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHES OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, MAJOR ROBERT T. KRAMER AND CAPTAIN FRANK R. ANDERSEN, WHILE IN AN AREA OPEN TO FOREIGNERS IN THE VICINITY OF LYTKARINO, WERE FORCIBLY DETAINED AND SEARCHED BY EVEN MEN, WHO REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. THE MEN SEIZED CAMERAS AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS, AND REFUSED THE REQUEST OF THE TWO AMERICANS TO TELEPHONE THE EMBASSY.

THE EMBASSY PROTESTS THIS CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY OF THESE TWO EMBASSY OFFICIALS, WHO WERE IN AN OPEN AREA AND WERE ACTING LAWFULLY. IT HOPES THAT A FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE ON THE INCIDENT AND EXPECTS THAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS ARE NOT REPEATED AND THAT THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF THE TWO MEN WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT DELAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00652 161724Z

IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING DAMAGE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE EMBASSY HAS NO DESIRE TO PUBLICIZE THIS INCIDENT.

5. IN REPLY KOMPLEKTOV STATED THAT SOVIET EXPERIENCE IN CASES OF THIS SORT IN THE PAST HAS INDICATED THAT PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM. HE STATED THAT ACTUAL

EVIDENC IN THE HANDS OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL PROVE THAT ANDERSEN AND KRAMER UNQUESTIONABLY WERE ENGAGED IN THE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO PREVIOUSLY IN THE SOVIET ORAL STATEMENT. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, HE CONTINUED, HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE REFERENCE MADE BY THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO AVOIDING DAMAGE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NO DESIRE TO PUBLICIZE THIS INCIDENT. HE EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL HOPE THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND WILL NOT BE REPEATED AND THAT THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT U.S.-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS ALSO DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON THIS MATTER OR TO PUBLICIZE IT.

6. COMMENT: KOMPLEKTOV WHO, AS GARRISON AND OTHERS CAN TESTIFY, IS AN UNUSUALLY DOUR PERSONALITY, WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY BOTH BEFORE THE BUSINESS AT HAND WAS UNDERTAKEN, AS WELL AS AFTER IT WAS CONCLUDED. HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO CONVEY CLEARLY THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NO INTENTION OF BLOWING THIS MATTER OUT OF PROPORTION. STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DIA.

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